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This treatment of Thai phonology for beginning students begins with a simplified presentation of tones, consonants, and vowels. The descriptions use a minimum of linguistic terminology and the Thai examples appear in phonemic transcription. Following the introductory section on phonology are 18 pronunciation exercises which drill the tones and more difficult sounds. See related document AL 001 555. (AMM)

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

THAI

SOUNDS
OF
THAI SPEECH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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AL 001 554

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THAI

SOUNDS OF THAI SPEECH

July 1966

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

PRONUNCIATION

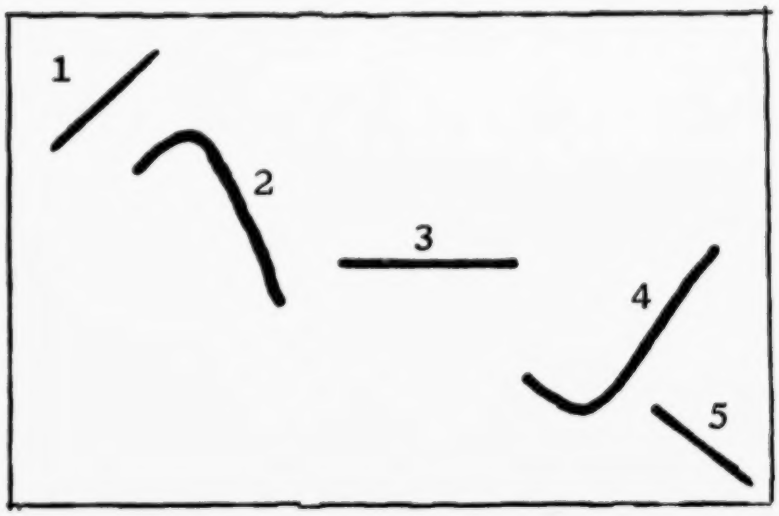
A. TONE

In Thai each syllable has a tone of its own in addition to sentence intonation. To a Thai, the tone of each syllable is an essential part of the pronunciation of the syllable. For example, the word maa (level tone) means 'to come'. The word mǎa (rising tone) means 'dog'. The word máa (high tone) means 'horse'. It is important for you to realize that to a speaker of Thai these are different words, not the same word with different tones. To a Thai, mǎa is as different from maa as ride and write to you.

Thai has five tones which are indicated in the writing system by tonal markers and by different groups of consonants, which will be further explained when we introduce the conventional writing system. In the phonemic transcription used in THAI BASIC COURSE, they are indicated by marks over the vowels.

The following diagram will help you locate the tones in the speaking voice range of your instructors.

Tone Chart:



Tonal Marks

1. High tone (́)
2. Falling tone (̂)
3. Level tone (No mark)
4. Rising tone (̌)
5. Low tone (̀)

Examples:

khá̠a	to trade
khâ̠a	to kill
khaa	to be stuck in
khǎ̠a	leg
khà̠a	plant of ginger species
lá̠w	coop, pen
lâ̠w	to tell, to relate
law	approximately
lǎ̠w	to sharpen
là̠w	group

Examples:

mǽj	wood
mâj	not, no
maj	mile
mǎj	silk-worm
mǎj	new

Tone Drill

ʔam	ʔaam	ba	baa
ʔàm	ʔàam	bà	bàa
ʔâm	ʔâam	bâ	bâa
ʔám	ʔáam	bá	báa
ʔǎm	ʔǎam	bǎ	bǎa
ʔin	ʔiin	ci	cii
ʔìn	ʔìin	cì	cìi
ʔîn	ʔîin	cî	cîi
ʔín	ʔíin	cí	cíi
ʔǐn	ʔǐin	cǐ	cǐi
ʔun	ʔuun	du	duu
ʔùn	ʔùun	dù	dùu
ʔûn	ʔûun	dû	dûu
ʔún	ʔúun	dú	dúu
ʔǔn	ʔǔun	dǔ	dǔu
ʔem	ʔeem	ke	kee
ʔèm	ʔèem	kè	kèe
ʔêm	ʔêem	kê	kêe
ʔém	ʔéem	ké	kée
ʔěm	ʔěem	kě	kěe

ʔɛn	ʔɛɛn	fɛ	fɛɛ
ʔɛ̀n	ʔɛ̀ɛn	fɛ̀	fɛ̀ɛ
ʔɛ̂n	ʔɛ̂ɛn	fɛ̂	fɛ̂ɛ
ʔɛ́n	ʔɛ́ɛn	fɛ́	fɛ́ɛ
ʔɛ̌n	ʔɛ̌ɛn	fɛ̌	fɛ̌ɛ
ʔɔn	ʔɔɔn	hɔ	hɔɔ
ʔɔ̀n	ʔɔ̀ɔn	hɔ̀	hɔ̀ɔ
ʔɔ̂n	ʔɔ̂ɔn	hɔ̂	hɔ̂ɔ
ʔɔ́n	ʔɔ́ɔn	hɔ́	hɔ́ɔ
ʔɔ̌n	ʔɔ̌ɔn	hɔ̌	hɔ̌ɔ
ʔom	ʔoom	lo	loo
ʔo̍m	ʔo̍om	lo̍	lo̍o
ʔo̍̂m	ʔo̍̂om	lo̍̂	lo̍̂o
ʔo̍́m	ʔo̍́om	lo̍́	lo̍́o
ʔo̍̌m	ʔo̍̌om	lo̍̌	lo̍̌o
ʔən	ʔəən	sə	səə
ʔə̀n	ʔə̀ən	sə̀	sə̀ə
ʔə̂n	ʔə̂ən	sə̂	sə̂ə
ʔə́n	ʔə́ən	sə́	sə́ə
ʔə̌n	ʔə̌ən	sə̌	sə̌ə

(Spiral 1)

1. The high tone is indicated by an acute accent mark (´) over the first vowel. This tone starts high in the normal speaking voice range and rises slightly. With long vowels, it occasionally falls slightly at the end.

Examples:

máa	horse
rúu	to know
chɔ́ɔn	spoon
lɛ́ɛw	then, afterwards
lɔ́ɔ	wheel
khráb	yes, polite particle for man

(Spiral 2)

2. *The falling* tone indicated by a circumflex accent mark (ˆ) over the first vowel starts at approximately the level of the high tone, rises slightly and then drops abruptly to the bottom of the voice range.

Examples:

mɛ̂ɛ	mother
phɔ̂ɔ	father
kɛ̂ɛw	glass
mîid	knife
khâa	to kill
mŷa	when

(Spiral 3)

3. The level tone indicated by the absence of a mark bagins at approximately the middle of the voice range. When this syllable is followed by another syllable, the tone is level: that is, it does not rise or fall. However, when it is final in a phrase, it falls slightly.

Examples:	maa	to come
	mii	to have
	paj	to go
	khraj	who
	naalfkaa	clock, watch
	dii	good, well

(Spiral 4)

4. The rising tone indicated by an inverted circumflex mark (ˇ) over the first vowel starts near the bottom of the voice range and slides up nearly to the top of the voice range.

Examples:	mǎa	dog
	hǔu	ear
	khɛ̌ɛn	arms
	mǔu	pig
	khwǎa	right
	thɤ̌y	to hold, to carry
	khǎaw	white

(Spiral 5)

5. The low tone indicated by a grave accent mark (ˋ) over the first vowel starts in the lower range of the normal speaking voice and falls rather slowly to the bottom of the voice range.

Examples:	jùu	to be (exist)
	mùag	hat
	mỳg	ink
	sùub	to smoke, to inhale
	dèg	child
	tɛ̀ɛ	but

Note: Each tone change is greater when it occurs with long vowels than with short ones.

B. CONSONANTS

(Spiral 6)

1. Consonants pronounced almost like their English equivalents:

Some sounds are very much like English sounds, but notice that they sometimes occur in positions in a word where they do not occur in English.

Trans-cription	Description	Thai Examples
(1) b	In initial position like English b as in 'but'. In medial and final positions like English b as in 'cabinet' and	bàan 'house' sìb 'ten' sàbùu 'soap'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	'crab', but unreleased. (To pronounce an unreleased final b, say the word 'crab' and leave your lips closed at the end of the word so that no breath escapes between your lips. To pronounce b in initial and medial positions in Thai, do not follow it with a heavy stress.)	
(2) d	In initial position like English d as in 'dog'. In medial position like English d as in 'medial'. In final position like English d or t as in 'read' and 'neat', but unreleased. (To pronounce an unreleased final d, say the word 'read' and keep the tip of your tongue against the backs of your upper teeth, so that no breath escapes.)	dəən 'to walk' hàd 'to practice'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
(3) f	Occurs in initial and medial positions, like English f as in 'fun' or 'gift'. Does not occur in final position.	fan 'teeth' fajfáa 'electricity'
(4) g	Occurs only in final position, something like English g or k as in 'big' or 'back' but unreleased.	jâag 'difficult'
(5) h	Like English h as in 'he' or 'hut'. Does not occur in final and medial positions.	hɔ̂ŋ 'room' hĭw 'to be hungry'
(6) l	Like English l as in 'leaf' except that English l is alveolar with closer contact than Thai l, whereas Thai l is dental with a contact so loose that it is often confused with English r. Occurs in initial and medial positions. Does not occur in final position.	lûug 'offspring' phonláryan 'civilian'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
(7) m	Like English m as in 'man'. Occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	mǎa 'dog' kammákɔɔn 'laborer' cam 'to remember'
(8) n	Like English n as in 'nut' except that Thai n is dental and English n is alveolar. Occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	naj 'in' nɔɔn 'to sleep' kanjaajon 'September'
(9) s	Occurs in initial and medial positions like English s as in 'song' or 'task'. Does not occur in final position.	sɔ̌ɔŋ 'two' sâadsânǎa 'religion'
(10) j	Like English y as in 'you' or 'boy'. Occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	jaa 'medicine' rôdjon 'car' sǎaj 'to be late'

(Spiral 7)

2. Consonants similar to English:

Notice and imitate the small differences in your instructor's pronunciation.

(1) c	Similar to English ch as in 'church', but without a puff of breath (aspiration)	caan 'plate' kìdcâkaan 'work'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	that always goes with English ch. Occurs only in initial and medial positions.	
(2) ch	Similar to English ch as in 'chin' but with a stronger puff of breath. Occurs in initial and medial positions.	chɔ̂ɔb 'to like' râadchákaan 'government service'

Aspiration is a puff of breath. Normally when we say the letter h, we blow out our breath distinctly. This also happens when we make other sounds. For example when we pronounce the p in 'pin' we send out some breath along with p. However, we do not pronounce all the p's in the English language in this manner. In the word 'spin', we say the p without the out-puffing of breath. The p in 'pin' is called aspirated p. The p in 'spin' is called an unaspirated p. In English the difference between these two types of p's is not important. However, in Thai the difference is extremely important.

(3) k	Occurs in all positions. Similar to English k, but without a puff of breath.	kàj 'chicken' kaafɛɛ 'coffee' kàrágkàdaakhom 'July'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	French c as in 'cahier' or 'café'. Does not occur in final position.	
(4) kh	Similar to English k as in 'kit' or to c as in 'can' or 'cat', but with a strong puff of breath. Does not occur in final position.	khun 'you' bûgkhon 'person'
(5) ŋ	Similar to English ng as in 'sing'. In English, this sound never occurs in initial position. In Thai, it occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	ŋən 'money' ŋɔ̂gŋaam 'to grow' nɨ̀ŋ 'one'
(6) p	Similar to English p, but without a puff of breath as in 'spin' or like French p as in 'père'. Does not occur in final position.	paj 'to go' nám̀prâpaa 'city water'
(7) ph	Similar to English p as in 'poor' but with a	phɔ̂ɔ 'father' phûuphíphâagsǎa 'judge'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	stronger puff of breath. Does not occur in final position.	
(8) r	Thai r is an unstable phoneme with many free variants. It is sometimes trill similar to Spanish r as in 'rojo', and sometimes retroflex as in English r. Does not occur in final position.	rian 'to learn' cârûad 'rocket'
(9) t	Similar to English t without a puff of breath as in 'strong' or to French t as in 'tête'. In final position, however, t is unreleased and phonetically indicated by d (Refer to the consonant d.)	taam 'to follow' tìdtɔ̀ɔ 'to contact'
(10) th	Similar to English t as in 'Tom', but with a strong puff of breath. Does not occur in	tham 'to do' thóbthuan 'to review'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	final position.	
(11) w	Similar to English w as in 'would' or 'now', but with more friction and more rounding of the lips. Occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	wan 'day' rá̊waŋ 'cautious' raw 'we'

(Spiral 8)

3. Consonant different from English:

?	The glottal stop. A sound made in the throat like a cough. It is not a significant sound in English. ? occurs in initial, medial and final positions.	?å̊raj 'what' så?å̊ad 'clean' tó? 'table'

C. VOWELS

(Spiral 9)

Of equal importance with tones and aspiration in consonants is the length of vowels. A syllable with exactly the same vowel, consonant and tone as another syllable will have an entirely different meaning solely because one has a long vowel and the other a short vowel.

e.g.,

Short Vowel		Long Vowel	
daw	'to guess'	daaw	'star'
faŋ	'to listen'	faaŋ	'straw'
khâw	'to enter'	khâaw	'rice'
khǎw	'knee'	khǎaw	'news'
raw	'we'	raaw	'approximately'
sǎj	'clear'	sǎaj	'late'
naj	'in'	naaj	'mister, master'
wan nǐi	'today'	waan nǐi	'yesterday'
jaŋ	'not yet'	jaaŋ	'rubber'
ʔaj	'to cough'	ʔaaj	'bashful'

It must always be remembered that long vowels are distinguished from short vowels by their longer duration of utterance.

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
(1) a	Short a as in 'account' or 'infant', but much shorter.	faŋ 'to listen'
(2) aa	Long a as in 'arm', 'far' 'farther' or 'ah', but twice as long as short a.	jaaŋ 'rubber'
(3) e	Short e as in 'set', 'get' or 'bet'.	pen 'to be'
(4) ee	Long e, but twice as long as short e like a as in 'ale', 'fate' or 'labor', but without the y-glide.	lêeg 'number'
(5) ɛ	Short ɛ almost like English a as in 'stand' or 'add', but much shorter.	khɛ̌ŋ 'hard'
(6) ɛɛ	Long ɛ, but twice as long as short ɛ.	mɛ̂ɛ 'mother'
(7) ə	Short ə similar to English ur, er in fur, her, but as in British English.	cə̀ʔ 'to meet'
(8) əə	Long ə, but twice as long as short ə.	dəən 'to walk'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
(9)i	Short i as in 'bit'	tid 'to fix'
(10) ii	Long i like the vowel in 'bid', but twice as long as short i. Also like ee as in 'eel', or 'fee', but without the y-glide.	pii 'year'
(11) o	Short o as in 'so', but much shorter.	tɔ? 'table'
(12) oo	Long o, but twice as long as short o.	bɔog 'to wave'
(13) ɔ	Short ɔ like the vowel in 'caught', but much shorter.	kɔ? 'island'
(14) ɔɔ	Long ɔ, but twice as long as short ɔ.	rɔɔ 'to wait'
(15) u	Short u as in 'put'	juŋ 'mosquitoes'
(16) uu	Long u, but twice as long as short u; almost as in 'too'.	ruu 'hole'
(17) y	Short y unlike any sound in English. Let	thy̆ŋ 'to arrive'

Transcription	Description	Thai Examples
	the tongue, teeth and lips be in relaxed position. Raise the center part of the tongue high, then vocalize to produce the sound y. Similar to French u as in du, but much shorter.	
(18) yy	Long y, but twice as long as short y.	thy̆y 'to hold'

D. VOWELS IN SEQUENCE (Diphthongs)

(Spiral 10)

(1) ua	u plus a without any pause or break between the two. The sound ua is similar to the one as found in 'tour'.	klua 'to fear'
(2) ia	i plus a without any pause or break between the two. The sound ia	sĭa 'to lose', 'to waste'

Trans-cription	Description	Thai Examples
	is similar to the one as found in 'realize'.	
(3) ya	y plus a without any pause or break between the two. ya has no close equivalent in English.	rya 'boat'

The vowels in sequence or diphthongs ia, ua and ya are all long. Normally it requires twice as much time to say a diphthong or any vowels in sequence like ia, ua or ya as to say any single vowel like i, y, a, or u. The short counterparts of these vowels in sequence are extremely rare. In pronunciation the two vowels are even in length and stress.

Appendix

PRONUNCIATION EXERCISE

Lesson I

Tonal Drill

Level Tone vs Low Tone

1.	mii	to have
	mìi	vermicelli
2.	kɛɛ	he, you (intimate)
	kɛ̀ɛ	aged
3.	kaw	to scratch
	kàw	old
4.	jaa	medicine
	jàa	don't
5.	kaj	key
	kàj	chicken
6.	tam	to pound
	tàm	short
7.	khun	you
	khùn	unclear, dim
8.	pii	year
	pìi	pipe

L 1

9.	ʔaan	saddle
	ʔa̤an	to read
10.	jaaŋ	rubber
	ja̤aŋ	kind, example
11.	sɔɔŋ	envelop
	sɔ̤ɔŋ	to peer
12.	man	it
	ma̤n	deligently
13.	jiŋ	to shoot
	ji̤ŋ	aloof, imprudent
14.	phaa	to lead
	pha̤a	to cleave, to split
15.	prɛɛŋ	brush
	prɛ̤ɛŋ	dialectally
16.	tɔɔ	stump
	tɔ̤ɔ	to connect, to join
17.	cəə	to meet
	cə̤ə	to swell
18.	wan	day
	wa̤n	to be scared
19.	laŋ	wooden box
	la̤ŋ	to flow
20.	puu	crab
	pṳu	grandfather

L 1

21.	keŋ	to estimate
	kə̀ŋ	clever, skillful
22.	kwaaŋ	deer
	kwə̀aŋ	a kind of insect
23.	baaŋ	thin
	bə̀aŋ	flying lemur
24.	paa	to throw
	pə̀a	forest
25.	bon	above
	bə̀n	to grumble

Level Tone vs Falling Tone

1.	paa	to throw
	pə̀a	aunt
2.	jaa	medicine
	jə̀a	grass
3.	naa	rice field
	nə̀a	page, face
4.	din	earth, soil
	dî̀n	to squirm
5.	khlɔɔŋ	canal
	khlɔ̀ɔŋ	smoothly, fluently
6.	khlaŋ	treasure
	khlə̀ŋ	to be insane

L 1

7.	khɔɔj khɜ̂ɔj	to wait slowly
8.	baan bâan	to blossom, to bloom house
9.	juŋ jûŋ	mosquitoes to be mixed up
10.	waa wâa	a unit of measurement to criticize
11.	waaŋ wâaŋ	to place free, unoccupied
12.	jɔɔm jɜ̂ɔm	to agree (to, with) as a matter of course
13.	lɔɔŋ lɔ̂ɔŋ	coffin open
14.	ruam rûam	to collect almost, nearly
15.	thiaw thîaw	quite to go out for pleasure
16.	thaa thâa	to coat if
17.	ʔaaj ʔâaj	to be bashful appellation for inferior
18.	jyyn jŷyn	to stand to hand over

L 1

19.	daj	any, which
	dâj	can, to be able
20.	duaŋ	classifier
	dûaŋ	weevil
21.	khɔɔ	neck
	khɔ̂ɔ	item, clause, section
22.	khon	to stir, to mix
	khôn	thick, dense
23.	khaaw	smell of fresh fish
	khâaw	rice
24.	ton	self
	tôn	base, trunk
25.	kham	word
	khâm	night, twilight

L 1

Lesson II

Level Tone vs High Tone

1.	laan	open space
	láan	million
2.	chaaw	inhabitants
	cháaw	morning
3.	maa	to come
	máa	horse
4.	naam	name
	náam	water
5.	chaa	tea
	chá	slow
6.	thaw	grey
	thǎaw	feet
7.	juŋ	mosquitoes
	júŋ	barn
8.	rɔɔŋ	deputy
	rɔ̌ɔŋ	to cry
9.	ruu	hole
	rúu	to know
10.	ween	to transfer
	wén	to exempt
11.	raaj	to be arranged
	ráaj	bad

L 2

12.	raaw ráaw	about to be cracked
13.	jɔɔm jɔ́ɔm	to yield to tint, die
14.	jaaj jáaj	grandmother to move, to transfer
15.	saaj sáaj	sand left
16.	khan khán	to itch to squeeze
17.	thɔɔŋ thɔ́ɔŋ	gold stomach
18.	ŋaw ŋáw	shadow petulant
19.	khraam khráam	indio to fear
20.	khlaaj khláaj	to subside, to loosen to be similar
21.	nɔɔŋ nɔ́ɔŋ	to overflow younger brother or younger sister
22.	rɔɔj rɔ́ɔj	mark, trace hundred
23.	phɛɛ phɛ́ɛ	raft to be defeated

L 2

24.	thaaj	to guess
	thǻaj	tail, rear
25.	thuaŋ	to ask for the return of
	thúaŋ	to object, to oppose

Level Tone vs Rising Tone

1.	suaj	unlucky
	sŭaj	to be pretty
2.	laaj	design
	lăaj	many, several
3.	mɔɔn	Peguan
	mɔ̆ɔn	pillow
4.	maw	to be drunk
	măw	to take the whole lot
5.	maa	to come
	măa	dog
6.	fan	tooth
	făn	to dream
7.	faŋ	to listen
	făŋ	to bury
8.	ŋɔɔn	curved up, bent up
	ŋɔ̆ɔn	crest comb
9.	waan	to ask a favor
	wăan	sweet

L 2

10.	myaŋ	town
	mv̌aŋ	irrigation ditch
11.	ruu	hole
	rv̌u	gorgeous
12.	loŋ	to go down
	lv̌ŋ	to be infatuated
13.	nɔɔn	to lie
	nv̌ɔn	worm
14.	waj	quickly
	wv̌j	to shake, to tremble
15.	tua	body
	tv̌a	ticket
16.	thɔɔn	to cut off
	thv̌ɔn	to withdraw
17.	khɔɔ	neck
	khv̌ɔ	to request for
18.	khwan	smoke
	khwv̌n	guardian spirit
19.	khon	human being
	khv̌n	to transport
20.	jiŋ	to
	jv̌ŋ	woman, girl
21.	phii	fat
	phv̌i	spirit

L 2

22.	phaa	to lead
	phǎa	rocky mountain
23.	chaaj	man
	chǎaj	to project
24.	khem	salty
	khěm	needle
25.	diaw	only, single
	dǐaw	moment, instance

Lesson III

Tonal Drill

Level Tone

1.	khruu	teacher
2.	maa	to come
3.	taa	eye
4.	mii	to have
5.	jaŋ	not yet
6.	nam	to bring
7.	pen	to be, become
8.	khyy	to be
9.	naaj	mister, master
10.	naj	in
11.	dii	good
12.	myy	hand

13.	ŋən	money, silver
14.	khun	you (polite)
15.	naalɨkaa	time - piece
16.	tham	to do
17.	phɛɛŋ	expensive
18.	kan	each other, together
19.	fan	tooth
20.	faŋ	to listen
21.	jyyn	to stand
22.	kaafɛɛ	coffee
23.	khon	person
24.	jaa	medicine
25.	naa	rice field
26.	plɛɛ	to translate
27.	chom	to admire
28.	com	to sink

29. ŋuu — snake

30. kaanŋaan — work

31. pii — year

32. pyyn — gun

33. paj — to go

34. jaaw — to be long

35. raw — we

High Tone

1. tɔ́ʔ — table

2. lɛ́ɛw — then

3. lɔ́ɔ — wheel

4. chɔ́ɔn — spoon

5. lɛ́g — small

6. khrǎb — polite particle used by men at the end of sentence. When used alone, it is equivalent to YES.

L 3

7.	thắŋ	both
8.	thắaw	foot (anatomy)
9.	nắn	that (demonstrative adjective, frequently used with classifier immediatly preceding)
10.	nĭi	this (demonstrative adjective, frequently used with classifier immediately preceding)
11.	chắa	slow
12.	phrɔ́ʔ	because
13.	chắaŋ	elephant
14.	nɔ́g	bird
15.	nắam	water
16.	nắb	to count
17.	mắaj	wood, stick
18.	rájáʔ	distance, period
19.	rắwaŋ	to take care
20.	lĭaw	to turn
21.	sɣ̌y	to buy

22. mǻa — horse

23. nǻgrian — student

24. rǒdjon — car

25. nɔ̌ɔŋ — younger brother or sister

26. lɛ̌? — and

27. lǻaŋ — to wash

28. rǻan — store

29. lǻb — secret

30. rɔ̌ɔn — hot

31. phǻg — to rest

32. chǻaw — to be early (in the morning)

33. phɔ̌? — to sow, to plant

34. phrɔ̌ɔm — to be ready

35. phǒb — to meet, final

Low Tone

1.	nyŋ	one
2.	sawaddii	hello
3.	kradaad	paper
4.	muag	hat
5.	myg	ink
6.	pratuu	door
7.	burii	cigarette
8.	paagkaa	pen
9.	kii	how many
10.	kaj	chicken
11.	khaj	egg
12.	deg	child
13.	juu	to be (existence)
14.	ced	seven

15.	bɔ̀d	lesson, chapter
16.	ʔàan	to read
17.	màj	new
18.	kàw	old
19.	sàmùd	exercise - book
20.	hìib	box
21.	kràdaandam	black-board
22.	càb	to capture
23.	kɔ̀ɔn	before
24.	khamsàŋ	order
25.	jàag cà?	to want
26.	thùug	to be correct
27.	fɤ̀ghàd	to practice
28.	tɤ̀yn	to wake
29.	bàad	unit of money
30.	jàj	big, large

L 3

31.	ʔɨ̀ig	else
32.	tɛ̀ɛ	but
33.	chàbàb	issue, classifier for newspaper, etc.
34.	pràmaan	about, approximate
35.	pɛ̀ɛd	eight

L 3

Lesson IV

Falling Tone

1.	mɛ̂ɛ	mother
2.	kɛ̂ɛw	glass
3.	phɔ̂ɔ	father
4.	nîi	this (one), demonstrative pronoun
5.	chŷy	name, to be named
6.	mŷa	when (relative adverb)
7.	môd	to be all, to be used up
8.	lôog	world
9.	mîid	knife
10.	bâan	house
11.	hâa	five
12.	nân	that (one), demonstrative pronoun
13.	phâa	cloth
14.	mêeg	cloud

L 4

15.	lûug	off-spring
16.	rôog	disease, sickness
17.	châj	that's it, that's so
18.	mâj	not
19.	khâw	to enter
20.	lêeg	numeral
21.	dâj	can, able to
22.	chɔ̂ɔb	to like
23.	hɔ̂ŋ	room
24.	phîi	older brother or sister
25.	thîi	place
26.	phŷan	friend
27.	kâw ʔîi	chair
28.	rûub	picture
29.	nâŋ	to sit
30.	sŷaphâa	clothes

L 4

31. sɜ̂ɔm — fork

32. sâaŋ — to build, construct

33. phû̂ud — to speak

34. hâam — to restrain, forbid

35. tɜ̂ŋkaan — to want, need

Rising Tone

1. khɜ̌ɛn — arm

2. hǎa — to look for

3. hěn — to see

4. rɤ̌y — particle used to convert a statement into a question

5. mǎj — particle used to convert a statement into a question

6. khɜ̌ɔŋ — things, belonging to

7. thǔŋ — sack, bag

8. dinsɜ̌ɔ — pencil

9. sɤ̌a — tiger

L 4

10.	khǎw	he, she, they
11.	sɔ̌ɔŋ	two
12.	lɔ̌o	dozen
13.	phǒm	I (polite masculine)
14.	sǔuŋ	tall
15.	fǎa	lid, cover
16.	wansǎw	Saturday
17.	sǐacaj	to be sorry
18.	sǎj	clear
19.	sǔaj	to be pretty
20.	sǔan	garden
21.	thɤ̌ŋ	to reach, about (of)
22.	thɤ̌y	to hold; to hold a belief
23.	thǎam	to ask
24.	phɛ̌ɛnthî	map
25.	fǒn	rain

26.	sǐi	color
27.	sǎaj	to be late
28.	sǎam	three
29.	thǎam	to ask
30.	thɔ́hǎan	soldier
31.	hǎaj	to disappear
32.	hǔu	ear
33.	mɔ̌ɔ	doctor
34.	lǎaj	many, several
35.	mɤ̌ankan	also, too, alike

Combination of the Five Tones

1.	sa̍baaj	to be well, happy, comfortable
2.	kaaŋkeeŋ	pants, trousers
3.	thɔ́hǎanjaam	guard
4.	khɔ̌ɔbkhun	thank you

L 4

5. kɔɔŋbanchaakaan — headquarters

6. krǎpǎw — pocket

7. rɔɔŋthǎaw — shoe

8. rɔ́ɔj ʔêeg — captain

9. khěmkhâd — belt

10. lûugpyyn — bullet

11. phîisǎaw — older sister

12. sûub bûrîi — to smoke a cigarette

13. ʔaŋkrìd — English

14. nídnɔ̀ɔj — a little bit

15. phaasǎa thaj — Thai language

16. khâwcaj — to understand

17. pàthaanúkrom — dictionary

18. dĭawnîi — right now

19. sàthǎanii rɔ́dfaj — railway station

20. rooŋrian — school

L 4

21.	rooŋphá̌jaabaan	hospital
22.	thá̌hă̌anbo̊g	soldier
23.	nɛ́nam	to introduce
24.	ʔaakà̊ad	weather
25.	phû̌ujĭŋ sŭaj	a pretty woman
26.	phonthá̌hă̌an	private
27.	mŷa chåawnfi	this morning
28.	ná̌am rɔ́ɔn	hot water
29.	nă̌ŋsў̌yphim	newspaper
30.	ʔû̌an khŷn	to get fat
31.	ʔà̊nú já̊ad	permit
32.	rá̌antà̊dphŏ̌m	barber shop
33.	cà̊raacɔɔn	traffic
34.	khă̌aj khà̊j	to sell eggs
35.	phŏ̌nlá̌måaj	fruit

L 4

Lesson V

Drill on Pronunciation of the Sentences

1. Khun mii pâagkaa rɤ̌y dinsɔ̌ɔ khrâ̂b

   Do you have a pen or a pencil?

2. phɔ̌m mii dinsɔ̌ɔ

   I have a pencil.

3. khǎw mii nǎŋsɤ̌y kìi lêm?

   How many books does he have?

4. khǎw mii nǎŋsɤ̌y lǎaj lêm

   He has several books.

5. mâjkhìidfaj jùu nǎj

   Where are the matches?

6. mâjkhìidfaj jùu naj krâpǎw kaaŋkeeŋ

   The matches are in the trouser pocket.

7. khun hěn phûujɨ̌ŋ khon nán mǎj

   Do you see that woman?

8. khráb, phǒm hěn khǎw

Yes, I see her.

9. nǎŋsʏ̌yphim chàbàb níi khɔ̌ɔŋ khraj

Whose newspaper is this?

10. khɔ̌ɔŋ phan?èeg khon nán

It belongs to the Colonel.

11. khun mii bùrìi kìi muan

How many cigarettes do you have?

12. phǒm mii bùrìi muan diaw thâwnán

I have only one.

13. khun chɔ̂ɔb ?àan nǎŋsʏ̌y mǎj khráb

Do you like to read?

14. khráb phǒm chɔ̂ɔb ?àan nǎŋsʏ̌y

Yes, I do.

15. khun chɔ̂ɔb nâŋ rʏ̌y jyyn

Do you like to sit down or stand up?

L 5

16. phǒm chɔ̂ɔb jyyn

I like to stand up.

17. khǎw mii sɣ̂akaaŋkeeŋ kìi chúd

How many suits does he have?

18. khǎw mii sɣ̂akaaŋkeeŋ sìi chúd

He has four suits.

19. ŋən khɔ̂ɔŋ khǎw jùu thîinǎj

Where is his money?

20. ŋən khɔ̂ɔŋ khǎw jùu naj kràpǎw sɣ̂a tua nán

His money is in the pocket of that coat.

21. rót̂jon lɛ́g khan níi khɔ̂ɔŋ khraj

Whose little car is this?

22. rót̂jon khan níi khɔ̂ɔŋ phɣ̂an phǒm

It's my friend's car.

23. phûujǐŋ sǔuŋsǔuŋ khonnán pen nɔ̂ɔŋsǎaw khun rɣ̌y

Is that tall woman your sister?

L 5

24. plâaw khráb khăw pen nɔ́ɔŋsăaw khɔ̌ɔŋ phɯ̂an phǒm

No, she is my friend's sister.

25. khun hěn khon kìi khon naj hɔ̂ŋ nán

How many people did you see in that room?

26. phǒm hěn phûujĭŋ pɛ̀ɛd khon lɛ́ʔ phûuchaaj hâa khon naj hɔ̂ŋ nán

I saw eight women and five men in that room.

27. khun rian năŋsɯ̌y kìi bòd

How many lessons do you study?

28. phǒm rian năŋsɯ̌y săam bòd thâwnán

I study only three lessons.

29. sâmùd khɔ̌ɔŋ khun jùu bon tó? rɯ̌y jùu tâj kâwʔîi

Is your exercise-book on the table or under the chair?

30. sâmùd khɔ̌ɔŋ phǒm jùu tâj kâwʔîi tua nán

My exercise-book is under that chair.

L 5

Lesson VI

Vowel Length Drill

A syllable with exactly the same vowel, consonant and tone as another syllable will have an entirely different meaning solely because one has a long vowel and the other a short vowel.

We designate the long vowel by repeating the letter for the short vowel twice. In English you often speak long and short vowels such as; the long O in lone and short O in dog. The terminology long and short is however a misnomer. We are actually, in the case of lone and dog, referring to two different vowels which happen to be written, according to English spelling, with the same letter. In Thai a long vowel is nothing more or less than elongation of the short vowel. It has the same tongue, lips and mouth position, the only difference being that the vocalic sound is held approximately twice as long as for the short vowel.

dù?	to be ferocious, severe, harsh
duu	to look, to look at
naj	in
naaj	mister, master
?aj	to cough

ʔaaj	bashful
faŋ	to listen
faaŋ	straw
loŋ	to descend
looŋ	coffin
raw	we
raaw	approximate
khå̌w	knee
khå̌aw	news
på̌g	to stick
på̌ag	mouth
mă̌j	particle used to convert a statement into a question
mă̌aj	to mean, indicate
să̌j	clear
să̌aj	to be late
wan nfi	today

L 6

waan nɨ́i	yesterday
cə̀g	shall, will
cə̀ag	from
jaŋ	not yet
jaaŋ	rubber
khə̂w	to enter
khə̂aw	rice
khə̌w	he, she, they
khə̌aw	white
daw	to guess
daaw	star
bùd	son
bùud	rancid, sour
can	moon
caan	plate
ʔen	tender

L 6

ʔeen	to bend
bàd	card
bàad	monetary unit of Thailand
tam	to prick, to pound
taam	to follow
ŋɔ́ʔ	a kind of fruit
ŋɔɔ	to bend
raŋ	nest
raaŋ	tract
waŋ	palace
waaŋ	to place
tî?	to blame
tii	to hit
phɛ́ʔ	boat
phɛɛ	raft
ʔàraj	what

L 6

ʔaahǎan	food
dichǎn	I (polite feminine)
diicaj	glad
mỳg	ink
myy	hand
thỳŋ	to reach
thỳy	to hold

Lesson VII

Drill on consonant ŋ

The sound ng "ŋ" when it occurs at the beginning of a syllable is difficult for the student to pronounce at first. In producing this sound the back of the tongue is pressed against the velum, keeping the apex of the tongue low, the uvula does not completely close the nasal passage. Some of the breath excapes through the nose and the speech sound has a peculiar resonance. Practice saying "canyon" or "running or" as one word and you will make the sound "ng" or pronounce the word "singer" very slowly several times, first dividing the syllable as sing-er then dividing them as if the word were si-nger, then you will find that you are able to pronounce "ŋ" at the beginning of a syllable.

ŋ as a final consonant

1.	nâŋ	to sit
2.	nỷŋ	one
3.	faŋ	to listen
4.	thẩŋ	both, all
5.	bâaŋ	some

6.	ciŋ	true
7.	sa̍ŋ	to order
8.	thŭŋ	sack, bag
9.	jaŋ	not yet
10.	khа̍nŏmpaŋ	bread
11.	rŷaŋ	story
12.	hɜ̌ŋ	room
13.	daŋ	loud
14.	kaaŋkeeŋ	pants
15.	sɜ̌ɔŋ	two

As an initial consonant

1.	ŋen	money, silver
2.	ŋaan	work, duty
3.	ŋaam	nice
4.	ŋɜ̌ɔgŋaam	to grow
5.	ŋû̍aŋ	sleepy

L 7

6.	ŋâaj	easy
7.	ŋôo	stupid
8.	ŋɔ́ʔ	a kind of fruit
9.	ŋuu	make
10.	ŋaw	shadow
11.	ŋoŋ	to be puzzled
12.	ŋɔɔ	to bend
13.	ŋɔ́bprɑ̀maan	budget
14.	ŋùdŋìd	touchy
15.	ŋỳag	gum (of teeth)
16.	ŋoonŋeen	swaying
17.	ŋûaŋnɔɔn	to be sleepy

L 7

Lesson VIII

Drill on aspirated and unaspirated p, t, k

The English p, t, k are really pronounced in two different ways, depending on whether they come at the beginning of a word or in the middle or at the end of a word. For instance, when we pronounce the p in pin, t in table and k in kick we send out some breath with p, t, k. These p, t, k are called aspirated p, t, k. However, we do not pronounce all the p,t, k in the English language in this manner. In the words spin, stable, skin we pronounce the p, t, k without the out-puffing of breath. The p, t, k in spin, stable, skin are called unaspirated p, t, k. In English the difference between the aspirated and unaspirated is not important. Its presence or absence has nothing to do with the meaning of the word. However, in Thai the difference is extremely important. To the Thai, the sounds p, t, k aspirated and unaspirated are entirely different sounds. Aspiration may easily be detected by holding a thin strip of paper in front of the lips. If aspiration is present the paper will jump noticeably outward. Aspiration may also be felt against the back of the hand when placed close to the lips.

The aspirated p, t, k in the Thai are pronounced with stronger aspiration than English. It is so strong that it is almost

like p, t, k followed by h. In Thai phonemic transcription it is written ph, th, kh. (However, the th in Thai transcription is not equivalent to the English sound th which actually stands for two different sounds.)

The unaspirated p, t, k occur only in final or medial position in English as in sip, sit, sick. In Thai they occur in the initial position. To pronounce these sounds, practice by holding back the puff of breath when you pronounce p, t, k.

The students have to be careful that these sounds do not become like b, d and g.

Drill on aspirated p:

phɛ̌ɛn-thîi	map
phâa	father
phûag	group
phɔɔ	enough
phá jaa jaam	to try
phonthářăan	private (Army rank)
phonláryan	civilian
phìd	incorrect, to miss

phǒm	I (polite masculine)
phâa	cloth
phaa jú?	storm
phǒn	result
phûud	to speak
phrɔ́?	because
phŷan	friend
phɛ́ɛ	to yield
phrûŋnfi	tomorrow
phrɔ́ɔm	to be ready, set
phɔ́b	to meet, find, encounter
phánan	to bet
phág	to rest
phád	to blow (as the wind)
phísèd	to be special, extra
phŷa	in order to, for

L 8

phîi '	older brother or sister

Drill on unaspirated p:

paj	to go
prâtuu	door
pii	year
plɔ̂ɔj	to release, let go of
pûad	to ache
pen	to be
pɛ̀ɛd	eight
pâw	target
plaaj	end
pɔ̂ŋkan	to protect, defend
pâa	forest, woods
plaa	fish
pɔ̂ɔd	to open
pîig	wing

L 8

plåaw	no
plɛɛ	to translate
plɛ̀ɛg	strange
plɔ̀d	to release
pɔ̀g	to cover
pɔ̀gkåtì?	normal
pɔ̀ɔn	to feed
pråab	to suppress
prå jɔ̀od	use (noun)
pråkåad	to announce
puu	crab
pyyn	gun

Drill on unaspirated and aspirated p:

phaj	danger
paj	to go
phâa	cloth

L 8

pâa	the older sister of one's father or mother
phan	thousand, to wrap around
pan	to share
phaa	to bring, to take
paa	to throw
phàd	to fry
pàd	to dust
phɛɛŋ	expensive
pɛ̂ɛŋ	powder, flour
phîi	the older sister of brother
pii	year
pàa	forest, woods
phàa	to split, cut
phǒn	result, outcome
pon	to mix
phǐw	complexion

L 8

pliw	to be blown away
phɔ̌ɔm	skinny
plɔɔm	counterfeit
phanrá̍jaa	wife
panjaa	wisdom, intelligence
phàg	vegetable
pàg	to embroider, to plunge down
phìd	to be different, incorrect
pìd	to close

Drill on aspirated p, unaspirated ph, voiced b:

pâa	the older sister of one's father or mother
phâa	cloth
bâa	crazy, insane
pûad	to ache, pain
phrûad	urgently, hastily
bùad	to ordain

pə̀w	to blow (with the mouth)
phə̌w	to burn
baw	light
pə̀d	to dust
phə́d	to blow, fan
bə̀d	card
paj	to go
phaj	danger
baj	classifier for things that can be used as a container like leaf
pə̂aj	poster
phə̂aj	to be defeated
bə̀aj	afternoon
pɛ̂ɛŋ	powder, flour
phɛɛŋ	expensive
bɛ̀ŋ	to divide
paŋ	bang

L 8

phaŋ	to tumble down
baŋ	to hide
pa̰ag	mouth
pha̰an	to pass
ba̰an	house
pɔɔ	hemp, jute
phɔɔ	enough
bɔ̰ɔ	well, pit

L 8

Lesson IX

Drill on aspirated th:

1.	thấhăan	soldier
2.	thấlee	sea
3.	thân	he, she, they (polite form)
4.	thaaŋ	way
5.	tham	to do
6.	thon	to bear
7.	thammádaa	to be ordinary, natural
8.	thaaj	to guess
9.	thỳŋ	to reach, arri[illegible]
10.	thûaj	cup
11.	thaa	to spread
12.	thâa	if
13.	thammaj	why?
14.	thâwkàb	to be the same as

L 9

15.	thǻaw	foot
16.	thɛ̋ɛ	genuine
17.	thɛ̂ɛb	almost
18.	thəə	you
19.	thîi	which, who, that (relative pron.)
20.	thii	time, instance, occasion
21.	thíŋ	to throw away, leave
22.	thon	to bear, to endure
23.	thɔɔn	to give change (money)
24.	thoorálêeg	telegram
25.	thoorásə̀b	telephone
26.	thɔ̌ɔj	to retreat
27.	thɔɔŋ	gold
28.	thù̀ug	to be correct
29.	thŭŋ	bag, sack
30.	thy̌y	to hold

Drill on unaspirated t:

1.	taa	eye
2.	tâj	under
3.	tɔ̀ɔb	to answer
4.	taaj	to die
5.	tàkrâa	basket
6.	tàkraj	scissors
7.	tàkoon	to shout
8.	taam	to follow
9.	tàaŋ	to be different
10.	tamraa	text
11.	tamrùad	police
12.	tàpuu	nail
13.	tem	full
14.	tɛ̀ɛ	but
15.	tɛ̀ɛg	to break

L 9

16. tii — to hit

17. tɨ̀d — to adjoin, connect

18. tiaŋ — bed

19. tɔ́ʔ — table

20. tɔ̀g — to fall down

21. tɔ̀ɔ — to continue

22. tɔɔn — section, part of time

23. tɔ̀ŋ — must

24. troŋ — to be straight, direct

25. tua — body, classifier for animals

26. tem — to be full

27. tɑ̀d — to cut

Drill on aspirated th and unaspirated t:

1. thaa — to spread

2. taa — eye

3. than — to be on time, in time

L 9

4.	tan	ton (English)
5.	thee	to pour
6.	tɛ̀?	to kick
7.	thii	time
8.	tii	to hit
9.	thoo	second (ordinal)
10.	too	big
11.	thɛ́ɛ	genuine
12.	tɛ̀ɛ	but
13.	thəəm	term
14.	təəm	to add on
15.	thɔɔ	to weave
16.	tɔɔ	stump

Drill on aspirated th, unaspirated t, voiced d:

1.	dii	good
	thii	time
	tii	to beat

2.	dàa	to scold
	thaa	to spread on
	taa	eye
3.	daŋ	loud
	thán	both
	tân	to set, place, set up
4.	dỳy	to be stubborn
	thỳy	to hold
	tỳyn	to wake (instransitive verb)
5.	dyŋ	to pull
	thỳŋ	to reach, arrive
	tyŋ	tight
6.	dam	black
	tham	to do
	tam	to pound, beat

Lesson X

Drill on aspirated kh, and unaspirated k

Drill on aspirated kh:

1.	khun	you
2.	khwaam	lawsuit, gist of a story
3.	khǎaw	white
4.	khon	person
5.	khǎaj	to sell
6.	khǎa	leg
7.	khàad	lack, to be torn
8.	khùad	bottle
9.	khruu	teacher
10.	khəəj	used to
11.	khlɔɔŋ	canal
12.	khɔ̀ɔbkhun	thank you
13.	khɔ̌ɔŋ	thing, article; (of belonging to)

14.	khɛ̌ŋ	to be hard, firm
15.	khàd	to polish
16.	khíd	to think
17.	khŷn	to rise, climb
18.	khrŷŋ	half
19.	khraj	who?
20.	khɔɔj	to wait
21.	khwaaj	water buffalo
22.	khan	classifier used for vehicle, spoon, fork, etc.
23.	kham	word
24.	khyy	to be (special copula)
25.	khyyn	night, to return
26.	khâa	fee, cost
27.	khwan	smoke
28.	khuan	should, ought to
29.	khrán	time, instance

30.	khrua	kitchen
31.	khoŋ	surely, sure to
32.	khánáʔ	group
33.	khâj	fever
34.	khĭan	to write
35.	khànàad	size

drill on aspirated kh and unaspirated k:

kan	each other, together
khan	classifier for vehicle, etc.
kaa	crow
khaa	to be stuck in
kâw	nine
khâw	to enter
kâaw	step
khâaw	rice
kàw	old

L 10

khåaw	news
kaaj	body
khǎaj	to sell
kåd	to bite
khåd	to polish
kåag	refuse
khåag	to spit
klɛ̂ɛŋ	to pretend
khɛ̌ŋ	hard
klåb	to return
khàb	to drive
kì̀i	how many
khì̀i	to drive
kɔ̀ɔ	to build, to start
khɔɔ	neck
kɛ̀ɛ	old

L 10

khɛ̂ɛ	as equal as, equally
kɤ̂ŋ	half
khrɤ̂ŋ	half
kâj	chicken
khâj	egg
kuan	to bother
khuan	should, ought to

Lesson XI

Drill on aspirated ch and unaspirated c

In addition to aspirated and unaspirated t, p, k, Thai also has an aspirated and unaspirated c.

The aspirated ch sounds like English ch as in chat, but the puff of breath is stronger.

The unaspirated ch is written in your text book as c. In practicing this sound try to pronounce English ch without sending out a puff of breath. Be very careful not to pronounce this sound like English j. Listen to the instructor carefully.

Drill on aspirated ch:

chɔ̂ɔb	to like
chəən	to invite
chíi	to point
chûaj	to help
chŷag	rope

chŷa	to believe
chŷy	to be named
chɔ̂ɔn	spoon
cháaŋ	elephant
châw	to rent
chaaw	inhabitant
cháaw	early
chên	such as
chim	to taste
chôog	fortune, luck
chom	to admire
chaa	tea
chýyn	to be damp, moist
chon	to bump into

Drill on unaspirated c:

cyŋ	so, then

cûd	to light
cûucîi	to be fussy
cɜ̀ɔd	to park
cɜ̀ʔ	to make a hole
cuan	almost
con	until, to be poor
com	to sink
coomtii	to attack
coon	thief
cɔ̀b	to be ended, finished
cɔ̀dmăaj	letter
ciin	Chinese (formal)
cɛ̀ɛg	to distribute
câwkhɔ̌ŋ	owner
cɛ̀d	seven
câaŋ	to hire

L 11

cɑ̀aj	to pay
caj	heart
cɑ̀mù̀ug	nose
cɑ̀d	arrange
cɑ̀rù̀ad	rocket
cɑ̀raacɔɔn	traffic
cɑ̀ag	from
cɑ̀?	will, shall

Drill on aspirated ch, and unaspirated c:

can	moon
chan	steep
caan	plate
chaan	uncovered veranda
cam	to remember
chaa	tea
caam	to sneeze

chaam	bowl
ciŋ	true
chiŋ	to snatch away
cɜ̀ɔd	to park
chɜ̀ɔb	to like
cà̀ag	from
chà̀ag	screen, partition
cà̀d	to arrange
chád	clear
cà̀?	will, shall
cháa	slow
cî̀i	to tickle
chíi	to point, to point at
cya	to mix
chŷ̀a	to believe
cù?	to have a large capacity

L 11

chuu	to raise
cé́g	Chinese (informal)
ché́g	check, cheque
com	to sink
chom	to admire
cuan	almost
chuan	to invite
cɜ̂ɔ	to point at
chɜ̂ɔ	bunch, cluster

Lessson XII

Drill on vowels y, yy and u, uu

The vowels y and yy are unlike any sound in English. To produce the sound let the tongue, teeth and lips be in relaxed position, raise the center part then vocalize to produce the sound. Listen to the instructor carefully.

Drill on vowels y and yy:

mỳg	ink
nỳŋ	one
khŷn	to rise, climb, ascend
nýg	to think
lýg	deep
thỳŋ	to reach, to arrive
sŷŋ	which (as a relative pronoun)
cyŋ	then, as a consequence
tỳg	building esp., brick building
dyŋ	to pull

rálýg	to remember
sỳgsăa	to study
myy	hand
jyym	to borrow
pyyn	gun
rỳy	particle used to convert a statement into yes or no question
sýy	to buy
chŷy	name
khyy	to be (copula)
thỳy	to hold
lyym	to forget
dỳym	to drink
năŋsỳy	book
khyyn	night

Vowels u, uu:

In pronouncing the Thai u, uu tongue position is high and

L 12

back, the lips are slightly round. However, there is no off glide in Thai u, uu.

jùu	to be (existence)
pràtuu	door
ruu	hole
nǔu	rat
khruu	teacher
thun	capital
khun	you
kûu	to borrow (at interest)
hǔu	ear
?ùn	to be warm
càmùug	nose
cùd	point, to light
sàmùd	exercise book
rúu	to know

L 12

lûug	child, off-spring
rûub	picture, form
thŭŋ	bag

Drill on vowels y, yy, and u, uu:

myy	hand
mûŋ	to aim
mẏy	meal
múŋ	mosquito net
phŷyd	plant
phûud	to talk
phŷŋ	just
phrûŋnii	tomorrow
ʔỳdʔàd	uneasy
ʔùdʔûu	stuffy, narrow
sỳgsǎa	to study
wansùg	Friday

khyy	to be (copula)
khuu	ditch
cy̌yd	to be tasteless
ců̀d	point
thy̌ŋ	to reach, arrive
thŭŋ	bag, sack
thy̌y	to hold, to carry
thŭu	to rub

L 12

Lesson XIII

Drill on glottal stop ʔ

Glottal stop ʔ is a sound made in the throat like a cough. It is not a distinctive speech sound in English. Though it occasionally occurs before a vowel at the beginning of a word or syllable for special emphasis as "It's inadequate - its in-ʔæ dəkwit". In Thai this sound happens much more often than in English.

In pronouncing this sound practice saying ha and gradually reduce the length of the h until you are thinking "h" but saying only "a".

ʔa̋raj	what
ʔaahă̋an	food
ʔaakà̋ad	weather
ʔà̋rɔ̀j	to be delicious
ʔà̋naamaj	health
ʔaachî̋ib	occupation
ʔà̋d	to press
ʔà̋dîid	to be past (time)

ʔɑ̊dtraa	rate
ʔaj	to cough
ʔaajúʔ	age
ʔaakaan	condition
ʔamnɑ̂ad	power
ʔɑ̊an	to read
ʔaŋkrɨ̀d	English
ʔaathíd	week
ʔɑ̊thíbaaj	to explain
ʔaw	to take
ʔɑ̊aw	gulf
ʔaawúd	weapon
ʔɑ̀egkɑ̊sǎan	document
ʔɛ̀ɛb	to hide
ʔɨ̀aŋ	to bend, incline
ʔɨ̀ig	more

L 13

ʔi̗m	to be full
ʔɔ̗d	to starve
ʔɜ̗ɔ	oh (interjection)
ʔɜ̗ɔg	to leave
ʔu̗an	to be fat
ʔy̗yn	other
ʔy̗dʔa̗d	uneasy

Final ʔ is somewhat close to final g because both sounds are made in the back part of the mouth. The student should be careful not to pronounce this sound as if it has g in a final position.

ca̗ʔ	will
ca̗g	to split lengthwise
tɛ̗ʔ	to touch
tɛ̗ɛg	to break down
sa̗ʔ	to shampoo
sa̗g, ság	as little as

lɑ́ʔ	per
lɑ́g	to steal
pɑ̀ʔ	to meet
pɑ̀g	to ram (something)
mɜ̀ʔ	to be suitable
mɜ̀ɔg	fog

L 13

Lesson XIV

Drill on vowels oo, o and ɔɔ, ɔ

To pronounce Thai oo, o , the tongue position is mid-back, the lips are slightly rounded and the muscles are tense. Notice that the Thai oo is different from English o because in English o the tongue changes position from mid-back to high-back, causing English o to be slightly diphthongized (ou).

In pronunciation of ɔɔ, ɔ, the tongue position is low-back, the lips are slightly rounded.

Drill on vowels o, oo:

1.	too	big
2.	booraan	ancient
3.	ʔookâad	opportunity
4.	ʔòd	to starve
5.	bòd	chapter
6.	thôod	punishment
7.	prâjòod	use
8.	pròod	please

9.	mɔ̀d	all
10.	thon	to endure
11.	cɔ̀dmăaj	letter
12.	tɔ̀g	to fall
13.	jɔ́g	to lift
14.	nɔ́g	bird
15.	lɔ̂og	world
16.	rɔ̂og	decease
17.	rooŋrian	school
18.	bon	on, upon
19.	krɔ̀od	to be angry
20.	thoŋ	flag
21.	troŋ	straight
22.	con	until
23.	loŋ	to descend
24.	sɔ̀ŋ	to send

25. khǒn	to search
26. khon	person

Drill on vowels ɔɔ, ɔ:

mɜ̌?	to be suitable
mɜ̌ɔ	doctor
mɜ̂ɔ	pot
mɜ̂ɔb	to entrust
mɜ̂ɔg	fog
mɜ̌ɔn	pillow
phɜ̂ɔ	father
phrɜ́?	because
kɜ̂?	island
cɜ̂?	to make a hole
chɜ̂ɔb	to like
tɜ̂ɔb	to answer
bɜ̂ɔg	to tell

nɜ̂ɔg	outside
rɔɔ	to wait
rɜ̂ɔb	around
rɜ́ɔj	hundred
rɜ́ɔn	hot
lɔɔŋ	to try
bɜ̀ʔ	cushion
phɜ́ʔ	to plant

Drill on vowels oo, o and ɔɔ, ɔ:

too	big, large
tɜ̀ɔ	to continue
tɜ́ʔ	table
tɜ̀ɔb	to answer
tɜ̀g	to fall
tɜ̀ŋ	must, to have to
bɜ̀og	to wave

bɜ̀ɔg	to tell
ʔɔ̀g	chest
ʔɜ̀ɔg	out
lɔɔŋ	coffin
lɔɔŋ	to try
lɔ́m	to fall
lɔ̀ɔm	to surround
lɔ̀ɔg	world
lɜ̀ɔg	to fool
lɔ̀ɔ	dozen
lɔ̀ɔ	wheel
pɔ̀g	to cover
pɜ̀ɔg	to peel
nɔ́ɔn	yonder
nɔ́ɔŋ	younger brother or sister
nɔ́g	bird

L 14

nɜ̂ɔg	outside
ŋô̂o	stupid
ŋɜ̂ɔg	to grow (plant)

L 14

Lesson XV

Drill on vowels əə and ə

The vowel əə is pronounced like English er, ur, ir as in her, fur, etc., but without the final r. To pronounce the sound əə, raise the center part of your tongue, without touching the palate. Do not round your lips. The sound ə is pronounced the same but much shorter.

Drill on vowel əə:

sə̊mə̆ə	always
chəən	to invite
təəm	to increase
tə̊əb	to grow
sə̊ə	stupid
cə̀rəən	to progress, advance
baŋʔəən	accidentally
kəən	to exceed
rəə	to belch

rə̂əm	to begin
khəəj	used to
ləəj	at all
pə̂əd	to open
kə̂əd	to be born
dəən	to walk
sə̀nə̌ə	to submit
phlə̌ə	to be forgetful

Drill on vowels əə, ə:

cəə	to meet
cə̂ʔ	to meet
dəən	to walk
ŋən	money
chəən	to invite
jə́ʔ	a whole lot
lə̂əg	to finish

lɨ̂ʔ	to be dirty
phɔ̂d	to open
[illegible]	to be spattered
phɔ̂ɔ	to be careless
phân	just, just now
thəə	you
thə̂ʔ	imperative particle
thəəm	term
jə̂ʔ	plenty

Drill on final consonants j and w:

The final j as in ʔâraj is pronounced like initial j as in jaŋ. For instance, the word mâj has more friction going with the pronunciation of the final j than the word my in English. The fianl w is pronounced the same as w in intial position.

Drill on final j:

mâj	in
khuj	to talk

L 15

mâj	not
mǻj	wood
khraj	who?
khəəj	used to
ləəj	at all
sǎaj	late
diicaj	to be glad
nɔ́ɔj	little, few
nəəj	butter
nỳaj	to be tired
nȕaj	unit
taaj	to die
dȗaj	by
sǎj	clear
naaj	mister
chə̌əj	to be indifferent

L 15

Drill on final w :

raw	we
khǎw	he
daw	to guess
plàaw	no, empty
kâaw	step
khâw	to enter
ʔaw	to take
lɛ́ɛw	then, already
kɛ̂ɛw	glass
pâw	target
níw	finger
hǐw	to be hungry
nɛɛw	line
nǎaw	cold
chawnaa	farmer

cə̂wkhɔ̌ɔŋ	the owner
thə̂w	to be equal to
thə́aw	feet

L 15

Lesson XVI

Drill on final consonants b, d

Final b in Thai must be pronounced by closing the lips at the end of the word so that no breath escapes between the lips. Final d in Thai must be pronounced by keeping the apex of the tongue in contact with the back of your upper teeth at the end of the word, so that no breath escapes between the apex and the back of the teeth.

sìb	ten
tɔ̂ɔb	to answer
sɔ̂ɔb	to test
kɛ̀ab	almost
lá̂b	to be secret
chɔ̂ɔb	to like
cà̂b	to catch, seize
cò̂b	to end
ʔàabnáam	to bathe
bìib	to squeeze

chàbàb	classifier for newspaper, letters, etc.
dîb	raw
kàb	with
kèb	to collect
klàb	to return
khráb	yes
khêɛb	to be narrow
khɔ̀ɔbkhun	thank you
náb	to count
plɔ̀ɔb	to console
pràb	to fine
phǎb	to fold
phâab	picture
bòd	chapter
cèd	seven
cìd	heart, spirit

L 16

cɔ̀d	to write down, to adjoin
ʔàd	to press, condense
ʔɔ̀dthon	to be tough
ʔùad	to show
bàd	card
bàad	Thai monetary unit
bùd	son
bùud	to be rancid
càd	to arrange
châad	nationality
chát	clear
chìid	to inject
dɛ̀ɛd	sunshine
dèdkhàad	to be decisive
hàd	to practice
hèed	reason

jâad	relative
jód	rank
jûd	to stop
kamnôd	limit
kəəd	to be alive
kəd	to press
khíd	to think

Drill on vowels ɛɛ, ɛ and ee, e :

The sound ɛɛ is pronounced with tongue relaxed in low front position. The tip of the tongue position touches the back of the lower teeth. The lips are spread as in smile. The sound ɛ is pronounced the same as ɛɛ but much shorter in duration, almost like English a in stand or add, but shorter.

The sound ee is pronounced with the tongue in a higher position than for the sound ɛɛ, almost like English ay as in play but without the y-glide. The sound e is pronounced the same as ee but much shorter in duration, like English e as in men.

L 16

lɛ́ʔ	and
lɛ́g	to be small
pɛ̀ɛd	eight
pɛ̀d	duck
thɛ́ɛ	to be genuine
thee	to pour
tɛ̀ɛ	but
tɛ̀ʔ	to kick
kɛɛŋ	curry
kaaŋkeeŋ	pants
bɛ̀ŋ	to divide
bɛ̀ŋ	to inflate
cɛ̀ɛg	to distribute
cɛ̀d	seven
chɛ̂ɛŋ	to curse

L 16

chə̂n	such as
də̀ɛ̂ɛd	sunshine
də̀dkhə̀ad	to be decisive
dɛɛŋ	red
də̀g	child
jɛ̂ɛg	to separate
jɛ́b	to sew
jɛ́ʔ	to be a lot
jen	to be cool
wɛ́ʔ	to make a stop
wɛ́n	to skip
rɛɛŋ	to be powerful
rə̂ŋ	to urge
sɛ̌ɛn	hundred thousand
sə̂n	line, strand

Lesson XVII

Drill on vowels in sequence (diphthongs)

The vowels in sequence ia, ua and ya are all long. Normally, it requires twice as much time to say ia, ua or ya as to say any single vowel like a, i, o. In pronouncing these two vowels, they are even in length and stress.

Drill on vowel sequence ia:

rian	to learn
sĭa	to waste, lose
mia	wife
thîaw	to roam, wander
ʔiaŋ	to tilt
sĭaŋ	voice
tiaŋ	bed
phiaŋ	adequate, equal to
kĭad	honor

ŋîab	quiet
líaŋ	to feed, to raise
diaw	single, only
dìawníi	now
khǐan	to write
thîaŋ	noon, accurately
thian	candle
thîab	to compare
bìad	to squeeze
rîab	to smooth
rîag	to call

Drill on vowel sequence ua:

tua	body, classification for animals, etc.
khuan	should, ought to
kuan	to disturb
chuan	to invite

sŭan	garden
cuan	almost, nearly
klua	afraid of
muan	classifier for cigarette, cigar
mὰag	hat
ʔûan	fat
ruam	to combine, add
rûa	to leak
rúa	fence
khὰad	bottle
mὰad	group
trὰad	to inspect
càrὰad	rocket
tamrὰad	police
dὰan	urgent
dûaj	with, also

L 17

klûaj	banana
khrua	kitchen

Drill on vowel sequence ya:

rya	boat, ship
sŷa	coat, upper garment
sy̆a	mat
chŷa	to believe
phŷa	friend
nýa	meat
myaŋ	town, city
my̆ankan	also
mŷa	when (relative pron.)
ly̆a	to be left over, remaining
lŷad	blood
ŋy̆a	perspiration
dy̆ad	to boil, to be in a rage

kʲab	almost, nearly
chʲag	rope
lʲag	to choose
khrʲaŋ	instrument
ryan	house
klya	salt
mʲan	to be the same as

L 17

Lesson XVIII

Drill on consonant clusters

Some consonants are followed by another consonant in the same word, these combined consonants are called consonant clusters. In pronouncing, the student must try carefully to differentiate the unaspirated consonant from the aspirated one.

Drill on consonant clusters:

1.	khruu	teacher
2.	khraj	who
3.	khrầb	polite particle for masculine
4.	trùad	to inspect, to examine
5.	khrʉ̂ŋphim	typewriter
6.	troŋ	accurate, straight
7.	sìbtrii	corporal
8.	raŋkhwaan	to disturb, to bother
9.	krà̀dòod	to jump
10.	jiŋkrà̀ad	to strafe

L 18

11.	triam	to prepare
12.	phrɔ̊ɔm	ready
13.	phrɔ̊ʔ	because
14.	plɔ̊ɔj	to leave, to release
15.	plɛɛ	to translate
16.	kwåa	more than
17.	klåj	close, near
18.	klaj	distance, far
19.	klaaŋwan	daytime
20.	klaaŋkhyyn	night time
21.	pråtuu	door
22.	krådåad	paper
23.	pråmaan	about, approximate
24.	klåb	to return
25.	låadtråween	to patrol
26.	plåaw	no, empty

L 18

27.	phrûŋníi	tomorrow
28.	krâbɔ̂ɔg	classifier for cylindrical objects
29.	kruŋthêeb	Bangkok
30.	klâahǎan	brave
31.	khrán	time
32.	khwâaŋ	to throw, to cast
33.	kwâaŋ	wide
34.	krâdaan	board
35.	sǒŋkhraam	war

Drill on consonant clusters aspirated and unaspirated :

kwâa	more than
khwǎa	right
klaaŋ	middle
khraaŋ	to groan, to moan
kwâaŋ	wide
khwâaŋ	to throw

kwaaŋ	deer
khwǎan	axe
klɔɔŋ	drum
khlɔɔŋ	canal
kruu	to throng
khruu	teacher
phlı̊d	to produce
plı̊d	to pick
khlǻaj	to resemble, look like
klaaj	to become
plaa	fish
phlǎan	to destroy

L 18